

HISTORIC FORT RIPLEY (21MO127) MORRISON COUNTY, MINNESOTA

Client: US Army

Don Johnson conducted a magnetometer survey in Fall of 2000 to help determine resources at the site of Historic Fort Ripley. The magnetometer survey covered approximately 4 hectares and was conducted with a Geometrics G-858 cesium magnetometer. The line spacing was 1 meter.

Historic maps of the fort (e.g. Ludlow (1880) and Anonymous (1864) depict the structures within the fort reasonably well. Structures outside the fort were not as

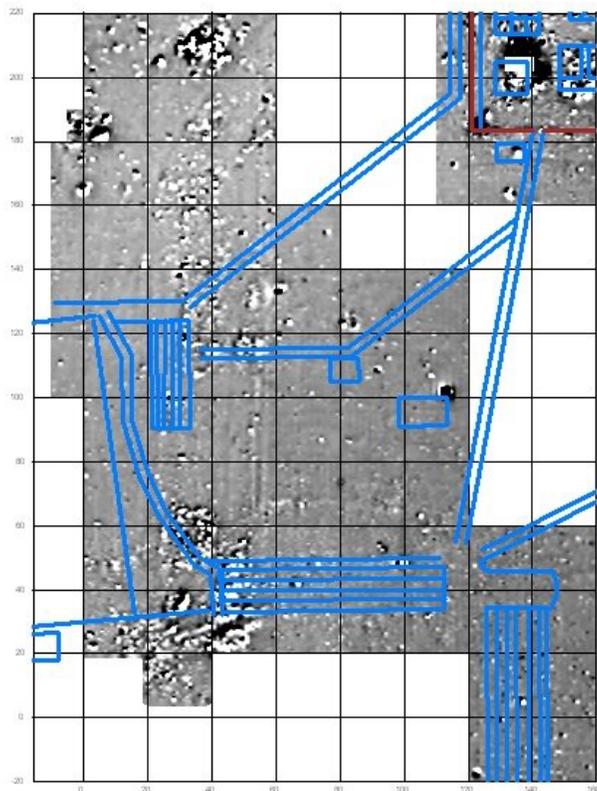


Figure 2. Portion of magnetometer survey covering stables and other unknown structures.

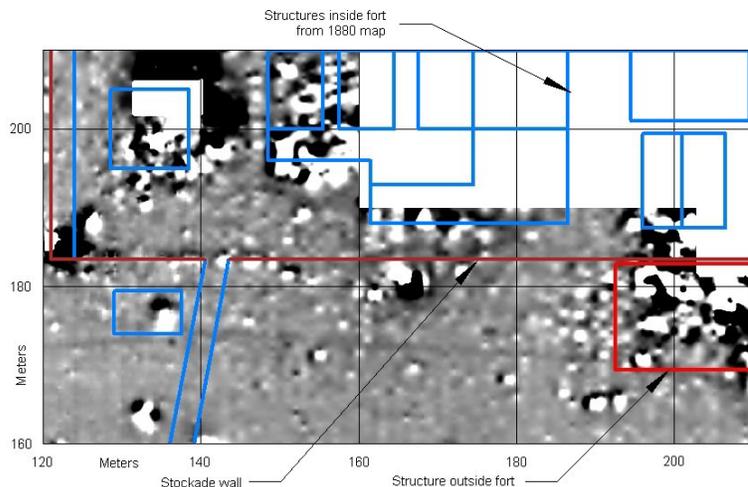


Figure 1. Selection of vertical magnetic gradient data showing a structure on the outside of the fort stockade and that does not appear on the 1880 map.

accurately mapped. These structures include stables and possibly civilian structures. Geophysical surveys were expected to map structures outside the fort walls and help determine the limits of fort-related features so they could be adequately protected. Military training and construction of fire breaks have probably already caused damage to the remnants of the historic structures.

Figure 1 shows a comparison of a small section of the magnetometer data with the 1880 map. The magnetometer data corre-

sponds well with the map, including a section of the stockade wall. The magnetometer data also show a structure located outside the stockade that does not show up on the historic fort map.

Figure 2 shows the part of the survey covering the area where the 1880 map shows stables. There is little correspondence between the geophysical results and the map. There is little indication that

two of the stables ever existed and the one that was located is not at the map locations and about twice as long.

Additionally, several other structures were mapped that do not appear on the map at all. It may be that the structures were constructed after the fort was abandoned or they may have been civilian structures that did not appear on the military maps.

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